

# QUARANTINE REGULATIONS,

## Port of Providence, 1844.

### AN ORDINANCE RESPECTING QUARANTINE.

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the City Council of the city of Providence, there is danger that at certain seasons of the year, contagious or infectious diseases may be brought into said city by vessels, their officers, seamen, passengers and cargo—therefore—

Section 1. Be it ordained by the City Council of the city of Providence, That the quarantine ground of said city shall comprise that part of the harbor of said city lying westward of the main channel of the river, and extending northward from *Sassafras Point* to the distance of one half of a mile from said point.

Sec. 2. That from and after the twenty-fourth day of June next, no vessel which shall arrive in the harbor of said city, from any foreign port or place whatever, except those direct from any port or place north of the forty-eighth degree of north latitude, and no vessel which shall or may arrive from any port or place in the United States south of Chesapeake Bay, and including the port of Norfolk and places on the James River, notwithstanding she may have stopped or touched at any intermediate port or ports during her homeward passage, nor any vessel with her officers, crew or passengers, that shall have touched or landed at the port of Norfolk, shall pass the quarantine ground.—But all such vessels, whatever be their lading, shall be subject to the inspection and examination of the Health Officer appointed by the Board of Aldermen, acting ex-officio as Board of Health; which Health Officer may, on information and examination of any such vessel, permit her to proceed up to the city, if it shall appear to him that the public health will not thereby be endangered; and provided it is not repugnant to the eighth section of this ordinance.

Sec. 3. That no vessel coming from any port or place in the south of Europe, or within the straits of Gibraltar, or from any port or place on the American continent, situated between the tropics, including all the West India Islands and places in the Bay of Mexico, or from any other port or place where it is ascertained that contagious sickness doth prevail, or hath recently prevailed, shall be permitted to unload at any of the wharves in this city. But such vessel, with her officers, crew and passengers, after having been subjected to, and gone through all the regulations of quarantine, to the satisfaction of the said Health Officer, may, on a certificate from him to that effect, or liberty from the Board of Aldermen acting ex-officio as Board of Health, be permitted to discharge her cargo into scows or lighters, any where southward of the Crook and west of the channel, and in such craft may bring the same up to the city; or the said Health Officer may permit, if in his opinion no danger is to be apprehended, any such vessels to unload at the wharves at Fox Point or India Point—vessels laden with salt, and vessels coming from Canton, or from any port in the Pacific Ocean, having no sickness on board, are not included in this Ordinance, but may, after conforming to all the directions of the said Health Officer, and on receiving his certificate that in his opinion no danger is to be apprehended, be permitted to unload at any of the wharves in said city.

Sec. 4. That all vessels arriving at this port, after having discharged their cargoes in any other port of the United States, agreeably to the quarantine regulations of such port, shall anchor on the quarantine ground, and be visited and examined by the said Health Officer; and be subject to the provisions of the eighth section of this Ordinance, the same as if said vessel came direct to this port.

Sec. 5. That every vessel subject on her arrival at this port to be visited and examined by the said Health Officer, which shall pass Field's Point after nine o'clock p. m. and before six o'clock a. m., shall anchor at the quarantine ground, notwithstanding she may not have been hailed by the sentinel.

Sec. 6. That if any vessel subject to quarantine shall pass or leave the quarantine ground without permission of the said Health Officer, the owner or owners, or agent or agents of such vessel, or the person or persons who shall move the same, shall forfeit and pay to the use of the said city, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, nor less than twenty-five dollars, to be recovered in an action of the case, in the name of the City Treasurer, before the proper Court to try the same; and such vessel shall be liable to be ordered back to the quarantine ground at the expense of the owner or owners, agent or agents, thereof; and the owner or owners, agent or agents of such vessels, shall be liable to the same penalty on every repetition of such offence.

Sec. 7. That if any officer of the customs or any other person whosoever shall without the permission of the Board of Aldermen acting ex-officio as a Board of Health, or the Health Officer, go on board of any inward bound vessel that shall be subject to quarantine, such officer or other person, so going on board, shall not land in said city, until the time of quarantine of such vessel shall have expired, under a penalty not exceeding twenty dollars, nor less than five dollars, to be recovered to the use of said city, in action of the case, in the name of the City Treasurer before the proper Court to try the same.

Sec. 8. That no untanned hides, horns, hoofs, or any other article whatever, that shall or may be thought by the said Health Officer capable of generating disease, shall be landed from any vessel whatever, within the limits of this city, during the existence of the quarantine, except at the Hospital ground, on Fox Point or India Point; nor shall such goods be brought into the compact part of said city, except by special permission from said Health Officer; nor shall any vessel having sickness on board, or having had any person or persons sick of a malignant or contagious disease during the voyage, be permitted to come to any wharf in the city during the existence of the quarantine, except to the wharves at Fox Point, south of Pike's wharf, or India Point, under special permission of the Health Officer; nor shall any foul or unclean bedding or clothing be landed or brought within the limits of said city, during the existence of the quarantine, from any vessel, in which any of the crew or passengers have been sickly during the voyage; nor shall any foul or unclean bedding or clothing be brought within the limits of said city during said time from any place where any contagious or malignant disorder doth or hath recently prevailed, unless the same are first carried direct to the Hospital, and there washed and cleansed, and every person concerned in the violation of this section, shall incur a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars, nor less than twenty-five dollars, to and for the use of the city, to be recovered in an action of the case, in the name of the City Treasurer, before the proper Court to try the same.

Sec. 9. That the said Health Officer shall have authority to put such interrogatories and inquiries to the captain or commanding officer, or any other person on board of any

vessel arriving at this port and subject to quarantine, as he shall deem proper, respecting the state of the vessel, and the health of the people on board, and if such captain or commanding officer or other person, shall refuse to answer any or all interrogatories or inquiries put to him by such Health Officer, or shall evade such inquiries, or shall in any way or manner make, or cause to be made to such Health Officer, a false or equivocal statement or report relative to the officers, crew or passengers on board thereof, or the state of health of all or any of the officers, crew, or passengers; or shall neglect to report to said Health Officer any death that may have occurred on board during the said voyage; or shall refuse to sign his written examination taken at the time by said Health Officer, after being requested so to do, such captain, commanding officer, or other person so offending, shall forfeit and pay a penalty to and for the use of the city, a sum not exceeding two hundred dollars, nor less than one hundred dollars, to be recovered in an action of the case in the name of the City Treasurer, before the proper court to try the same.

Sec. 10. That if any person ordered to the Hospital from on board any vessel arriving at this port, or from any part of said city after having so arrived, shall refuse to go thither, or being there shall depart from or leave the limits of said Hospital, without permission first obtained from the Board of Aldermen, acting ex-officio as Board of Health, or from said Health Officer in writing, such person shall for each offence forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars nor less than twenty-five dollars, to and for the use of the city, to be recovered in an action of the case in the name of the City Treasurer, before the proper court to try the same.

Sec. 11. That no person during the existence of the quarantine, unless by special permission of the Board of Aldermen, acting ex-officio as Board of Health, or Health Officer, shall go within fifty yards of the Hospital, except those at quarantine, the Health Officer and other physicians, nurses, and those attached to the family of the keeper of the Hospital and those passing on the turnpike road, under a penalty not exceeding twenty dollars nor less than five dollars, to be recovered to the use of the city, in the name of the City Treasurer, before the proper court to try the same; nor shall nurses, or those attached to the family of said keeper, be allowed to leave the Hospital, without his permission in writing, under the like penalty, to be recovered in like manner.

Sec. 12. That no stagnant or offensive bilge water shall be pumped out of any vessels at any wharf in said city above Fox Point, nor in the channel or on the flats opposite said wharves, during the existence of said quarantine regulations, unless it be done between the hours of eleven o'clock p. m. and four o'clock a. m., under the penalty of two dollars for the first offence, and for every subsequent offence five dollars, to be recovered of the captain or commanding officer of such ships or vessels, or of the owner or owners thereof, to the use of said city, in an action of debt in the name of the City Treasurer, before a proper court to try the same.

Sec. 13. That the following be the rules and regulations to be observed on board all vessels while at quarantine:

1. Every vessel shall, during her quarantine, wear colors in her shrouds.

2. No provisions, spirituous liquors or other articles, shall be admitted on board such vessel, without permission from the said Health Officer.

3. The said Health Officer shall, on all occasions, direct what goods shall be delivered from on board such vessel, the place where, and the manner in which they shall be landed.

4. No person or persons, in any boat or vessel, shall be permitted to go alongside of any such vessel at quarantine without permission of said Health Officer, nor to be at anchor or remain in any other manner, within one hundred yards of any such vessel.

5. Every such vessel shall be removed, and stationed at such place as the said Health Officer may, from time to time, under the direction of the Board of Aldermen, acting ex-officio as Board of Health, direct and appoint.

6. The bilge water shall be pumped from every such vessel at least twice a day.

7. The directions of the said Health Officer, for cleansing the vessel, clothing and other things on board, shall be strictly complied with by the officers and crew.

8. The commander of every such vessel shall be answerable for all irregularities and breaches of the regulations by the people on board; all permissions and directions of the said Health Officer as aforesaid, shall be in writing.

Sec. 14.—That if any person or persons shall be guilty of a breach of any rules and regulations contained in the next preceding section, such person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, nor less than ten dollars, to and for the use of the city, to be recovered in an action of the case, in the name of the City Treasurer, before the proper court to try the same.

Sec. 15. That the Board of Aldermen, acting ex-officio as Board of Health, be and they are hereby authorised and empowered, from time to time, to fix and assign the time which vessels shall be detained at quarantine, by virtue of this ordinance; and also to prescribe from time to time, if they deem it necessary, such other ports, places or countries besides those mentioned in this ordinance, from which vessels arriving shall be subject to examination for quarantine.

Sec. 16. That the Board of Aldermen, acting ex-officio as Board of Health, be and they are hereby authorised and empowered to make and carry into effect such further rules and regulations respecting quarantine, as to them may appear necessary, to prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases from other places; and to annex such penalties for the breach thereof, as they may think proper, not exceeding two hundred dollars fine or ten days imprisonment.

Sec. 17. That the Board of Aldermen, acting ex-officio as Board of Health, be and they are hereby authorised and empowered, from time to time, to suspend the operation of the whole or any part of this ordinance, in such manner and for such term as they may deem proper, and the same to revive at their discretion.

Passed May 5th, 1834.

A true copy—witness,  
RICHARD M. FIELD, City Clerk.

At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the city of Providence, acting ex-officio as the Board of Health, holden on the 17th day of June, A. D., 1844,

Whereas, in the opinion of this Board, acting ex-officio as the Board of Health, there is danger that at this season of the year, contagious or infectious diseases may be brought into this city by vessels, their officers, seamen, passengers

and cargoes: Therefore, by virtue of the power vested in this Board, acting ex-officio as the Board of Health, in and by the 17th section of the Ordinance passed by the City Council on the 5th day of May, A. D. 1834, entitled "An Ordinance respecting Quarantine," it is hereby ordered and decreed by this Board, that from and after the first day of July next, the order and decree of this Board, passed on the 2d day of October last, suspending the operation of the whole of said Ordinance, from and after the 15th day of said month of October, and until the further order and decree of this Board, be and the same is hereby repealed, and that the whole of said Ordinance be and the same is hereby revived, and declared to be in full force and operation, from and after the said 1st day of July next.

It is further ordered and directed, that the following instructions be and are hereby given to the Health Officer appointed by this Board:

To Dr JOHN W. RICHMOND,

SIR—The Board of Aldermen, acting ex-officio as the Board of Health of the city of Providence, having appointed you Health Officer of the port of Providence, enclose to you a copy of an Ordinance passed by the City Council of said city, on the 5th day of May, 1834, entitled "an ordinance respecting Quarantine," and give you in addition to what is required of you in and by said ordinance, the following instructions in the execution of the duties of your said office.

First—As soon as any ship or vessel shall arrive at the port of Providence, and shall have passed the Sentinel at Field's Point, having a signal in the shrouds for the Health Officer, you will as soon as possible repair on board such ship or vessel; you will then present the master or commanding officer with the Quarantine Regulations, and take down in writing in a book to be kept for that purpose, the name of the ship or vessel, the name of the master, number of men composing her crew, the number of passengers, (if any), the ports or places from which she sailed, and where she has stopped or touched during her voyage, and of what her cargo consists, the number of days on her passage, whether any person has died on board; and, if so, when and where?—whether there is or has been any one sick on board. The answer made to your interrogatories by the master or commanding officer, you will read to him in the presence of the crew and passengers; which written examination shall be signed and acknowledged by such master or commanding officer, to be a true statement of facts.

Secondly—You will examine every person on board, in order to ascertain the true state of their health, also of the state of the vessel, and give directions for cleansing the same. You are particularly required to give directions to the masters of all ships or vessels, from ports or places subject to contagious or pestilential diseases, or having had any sickness during the voyage, to remove the filth from the cabin, stowage, fore-cabin, and every other part of such ship or vessel, in which any officers, passengers or seamen have lived or slept during the voyage, and that all filthy or unclean bedding and clothing be washed and cleansed agreeably to your directions. Also, that all sails that may have been slept upon, and that all heds filled with straw or other substances which in your opinion may be dangerous, shall be emptied into bags, or tied up in a bag and sunk upon the flats of the river, or buried near high water mark on the Hospital ground. Also, all the clothing which you may judge necessary shall be sunk or buried as aforesaid. No bedding, straw, or filthy clothing shall be thrown into the river in such a situation as to be liable to be floated or drifted into the city of Providence. And you are further directed not to grant permission for any vessels to leave the Quarantine until your directions have been complied with. All vessels that, during their passage may have had any sickness or deaths on board or a malignant or contagious fever, shall be smoked and white washed in every part under deck, the timbers to be taken up, and lime put between every timber to your satisfaction.

Thirdly—You will make a weekly return to this Board of all vessels that shall arrive in the port of Providence, liable to Quarantine, on each and every Monday, between the hours of three and five. And you will report also to the Mayor all breaches of the Quarantine Regulations, or of your directions, as soon as may be.

The Board of Aldermen, acting ex-officio as the Board of Health, in giving these instructions to you, think proper to state, that they shall expect of you the utmost vigilance in performing the important duties confided to you, and at the same time they also think it proper to state that they consider you responsible if any ship or vessel, not having been duly cleansed or purified, should come up to the wharves of the city by your permission or consent.

It is further ordered and directed, that the following instructions be and are hereby given to the Sentinel at Field's Point, viz:—

To Mr EPHRAIM C. THURBER,

SIR—The Board of Aldermen, acting ex-officio as the Board of Health of the city of Providence, having appointed you Sentinel at Field's Point, to watch the arrival of all ships or vessels arriving in the port of Providence, subject to quarantine, have adopted the following Rules and Regulations to be observed in the execution of your office, viz:—

First—You will let no ship or vessel pass Field's Point during the Quarantine Regulations, (except river craft) without hailing and enquiring the name of such ship or vessel, and where from, and if subject to quarantine agreeably to the Rules and Regulations ordained and adopted by the City Council, you will order such ship or vessel to put her color in the shrouds as a signal (or the Health Officer, and to anchor at the place designated in the Quarantine Regulations for the port aforesaid.

You will also hoist a signal at the flag staff on the hill, and keep it up until such ship or vessel shall be visited by the Health Officer.

Secondly—You will in all cases, when there may be doubts in your mind relative to any ships or vessels, whether they are subject to quarantine or not, order them immediately to anchor and send their boat near the shore, and ascertain her true character, before you suffer her to pass.

Thirdly—All breaches of your orders, or of the Quarantine Regulations, you will immediately report to the Mayor.

It is further ordered, that the Clerk of this Board deliver to the said Health Officer and to the Sentinel respectively, a certified copy of the foregoing orders, directions and decrees, together with a copy of said Ordinance of the City Council.

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A true copy, witness,  
ALBERT BABODIE, Clerk.



